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Godolphin



RACING POST

Racing TV

2022 Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards

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The Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards are our opportunity to say a collective “thank you” to the exceptional people who care for our horses. It is a real highlight of the year and provides one of the most uplifting and inspiring moments in British racing.

After another challenging twelve months, it is wonderful to join together as an industry and shine a deserved spotlight on our stud and stable staff – without whom British racing simply could not exist.

This year we will again celebrate 18 finalists, whose outstanding contribution to our sport has seen them recognised by our expert panel of judges. You should feel immensely proud of your achievements and I wish you the very best of luck.

But our finalists also represent the thousands of stud and stable staff across Britain, who day after day nurture our future equine heroes and provide them with unparalleled levels of care and attention.

And what shines through time and again is your unconditional love for the horses you look after. It is perhaps most keenly appreciated in those heart-warming post-race moments: whether through jubilant celebrations and speechless interviews, or a more affectionate hug or pat on the way back to the stables.

Every moment of joy and exhilaration we enjoy on the racecourse is a product of your hard work, skill, and commitment.

Of course, the event would not be possible without the longstanding and generous support of our sponsors and partners, Godolphin. We again express our sincere gratitude for your commitment to stud and stable staff, both in Great Britain and internationally. We would especially like to thank Diana Cooper and Penny Taylor, whose invaluable contribution helps ensure that the Awards are a continued, global success.

We would love to have held the ceremony in person, but the COVID pandemic again disrupted our plans. However, I am delighted that, thanks to our colleagues at Racing TV, the ceremony is again being broadcast live and free-to-air. This proved to be a huge success last year, and it is incredibly exciting that we have the opportunity to do it again.

Our desire is that as many people as possible have the chance to celebrate the vital role of our stud and stable staff. Thank you to our media partners, Racing TV, for your support in producing what I know will be a fantastic show, and to The Racing Post, for again helping to generate nominations and raising the profile of the Awards through your first-class coverage.

This year Oli Bell has very kindly agreed to take on hosting duties. Oli’s involvement in the Awards stretches back several years and he is a passionate advocate for the role played by stud and stable staff, with ITV Racing providing ever more airtime for those working tirelessly behind the scenes.

And there wouldn’t be a show without our judges, who have so generously given their time to undertake the fiendishly difficult job of first selecting a shortlist of finalist and then picking the winners. I know that the nominations were of the highest quality this year, so this was a particularly unenviable task that they have tackled with diligence and enthusiasm.

Luckily, our judges are of the highest calibre. Chaired by the inimitable Nick Luck, our experienced panel brings extensive knowledge of the racing and breeding sectors, complemented this year by two new members: Claire Sheppard, Chief Executive of the Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association, and, as is tradition, last year’s Employee of the Year, Beck Edmunds.

Finally, I’d like to thank my team at the BHA, particularly Saffy O’Keeffe, Lucy Tully and Alison Enticknap, for all your hard work on the Awards, throughout a large proportion of the year, and for once again organising what I know is going to be a fantastic awards show.

I hope you all enjoy the Awards and the chance to celebrate our brilliant finalists.

Julie Harrington
Chief Executive
British Horseracing Authority

Sponsor's Welcome

Godolphin is absolutely delighted to sponsor the UK Stud and Stable Staff Awards. While once again we may not be able to get together in person, I am quite sure that we will be able to celebrate the most important element of the racing industry, our people.

As we have all navigated our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, with the many challenges that has brought, we hope these awards will allow us to focus on the many positives and wonderful stories surrounding this year's finalists.

Each and every finalist – and indeed everyone who was nominated – represent the wealth of exceptional people who work in the racing and breeding industries. Their dedication, from the early mornings on the gallops, to the late-night foalings, always going the extra mile for the love of the horse, is what sets us apart and is something to be extremely proud of.

This evening's finalists have demonstrated their dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding contributions to their teams in abundance. As ever, there have been ringing endorsements from their employers and colleagues that reflect the high regard in which they are held. We must thank everyone who took the time to nominate.

Thanks must also go to the judging panel, who are in the unenviable position of whittling down the numerous nominations to just 18 finalists. Their knowledge of our industry, and the people who work in it, is incomparable and we are hugely grateful to you all.

I would also like to thank our partners – the BHA, the Racing Post, and Racing TV, for their continued assistance with promoting and administrating the awards, especially with the production of another virtual ceremony.

Huge congratulations to all finalists. We hope you, your families and your friends enjoy the ceremony and we look forward to celebrating in person with all the winners later in the year.

Hugh Anderson
Managing Director
Godolphin UK and Dubai



Categories and Prize Money



£128,500 will be awarded
tonight across six categories.

Up to £15,000 available to
a single yard or stud.

All those who make the
shortlist of ten for each
category but don't make
the final 3 will receive
£250 in recognition of
their achievement.

David Nicholson Newcomer Award

£2,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £2,000 awarded to the winner's yard/stud. £1,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well £1,000 to their yard/stud. The winner of this category will also receive a five-day educational trip to Dubai provided by Godolphin.*

**Dependent on travel restrictions due to COVID-19. If necessary, an educational trip of some kind will be offered at Godolphin's discretion.*

Leadership Award

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 awarded to the winner's yard/stud. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their yard/stud.

Rider/Groom Award

£5,000 to the winner, and £5,000 is match funded to the winner's yard. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their yard.

Stud Staff Award

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 to the winner's stud. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their stud.

Dedication Award

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 to the winner's yard/stud. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their yard/stud.

Community Award

(in recognition of Rory MacDonald)

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 to the charity of their choice. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 awarded to the charities of their choice.

The Employee of the Year Award

£10,000 to the winner, with the same amount going to their yard/stud.

The winners of the Leadership, Rider/Groom, Stud, Dedication categories are eligible to win this category.



Nick Luck
(Chair)

Nick is a broadcaster and writer who has been an integral part of network television presentation of the sport's biggest events around the world for 15 years. Formerly the frontman for Channel 4 Racing, he is currently a host/reporter for NBC Sports, encompassing the Triple Crown, Breeders' Cup and Royal Ascot, as well as Racing TV, for whom his widely acclaimed talk show, Luck on Sunday, is now in its fifth season. He has been voted HWPA Racing Broadcaster of the Year eight times.



Mick Fitzgerald

Mick's glittering riding career spanned twenty years and featured a long spell as stable jockey to Nicky Henderson as well as big-race success on Rough Quest in The Grand National and See More Business in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and King George. Following retirement in 2008 Mick has been a successful broadcaster for Attheraces, Channel 4, Sky Sports Racing and ITV.



Rebecca 'Beck'
Edmunds

Beck was crowned Employee of the Year in 2021 for her work as head girl at Bryan Smart Racing. Beck's veterinary knowledge and assistance in implementing COVID-safe working practices that were vital in 2020 and she always went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure everyone in the yard, whether equine or human, was cared for.



George
McGrath

George was apprentice to Ian Balding and rode several winners before becoming travelling groom for Willie Musson for 12 years. Having served as President of the National Association of Racing Staff, George was elected Chief Executive in August 2012.



Hazel
Peplinski

Born into breeding, hunting and point-to-point racing, Hazel rode a handful of winners as an amateur jockey. Since then she has been Clerk of the Course at Hamilton Park, Ayr and Kelso. Before being appointed Chief Executive of Perth Racecourse she was Chief Executive and a Director of Hamilton Park.



Dinah
Nicholson

Wife of the late David Nicholson, after whom the Newcomer award is named, Dinah has been a key figurehead within the industry for many years, playing a vital role in the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards since inception whilst continuing her involvement in the industry.

The Judges



**Eileen
Harte**

Eileen started her career in the thoroughbred breeding industry working for Kerr & Co. Bloodstock Agents, going on to various other roles in the industry including PA to the MD of Weatherby's Ireland and Stud Secretary at Moyglare Stud. When she and her husband moved to the UK 15 years ago, they set up the successful boarding and consigning business Keith Harte Bloodstock Ltd. Eileen is passionate about the industry and those who work within it, acting as a mentor with Women in Racing.



**Claire
Sheppard**

Claire Sheppard is Chief Executive of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association. Her 30 year career in the industry started with the British Horseracing Development Programme, and she has worked across the industry including for the Tote, Musselburgh and Plumpton Racecourse, and the Racecourse Association.



**Captain Guy
Disney MBE**

Guy is a former soldier and a jump jockey and in March 2017 became the first jockey to ride a winner under rules in Britain with a prosthetic leg. He then successfully rode Gallery Exhibition over the Grand National fences at Aintree in April 2018 in the Foxhunters' Chase. In 2011 Guy trekked to the North Pole, together with a team of wounded servicemen, for the charity Walking for the Wounded. Guy is also involved with charitable work and is a member of the Diversity in Racing Steering Group.



**Ollie
McPhail**

Starting as part of the stable staff team with legendary trainer David Nicholson 22 years ago, Ollie progressed through the amateur jockey ranks before riding as a professional for ten years. A past winner of the JETS Richard Davis award, Ollie now works for the charity Racing to School as Lead Education Officer.



**Dawn
Goodfellow**

Dawn joined Racing Welfare as Chief Executive in August 2015 from the Northern Racing College, where she had been since the beginning of 2008. In both her roles, Dawn has had the privilege of working closely with stable staff and their development and welfare are her driving passion.



**Mark
Bradburne**

Mark rode as a jump jockey for ten years from 2001-2011, having previously been an amateur. He broke his back in a fall in 2009 and now runs his own business as an electrician in Lambourn. Mark is also one of a team of former jockeys who now act as BHA Jockey Coaches for conditional and apprentice jockeys.



Oli Bell

Oli's passion for broadcasting began with a stint on his local school's radio station, and reporting on horses did not come far behind as a live radio reporter at the Burghley Horse Trials. Soon reporting from events such as Land Rover G4 Challenge and the British Touring Car Championships, having left school Oli quickly became a presenter on Racing TV.

Oli has broadcast from events including Royal Ascot, the Grand National and the Cheltenham Festival as well as a spell on Sky in Australia. He joined the BAFTA-winning ITV Racing team in 2017, also going on to present football, boxing and darts on ITV. Away from broadcasting, Oli has played on the professional poker circuit and played both cricket and football to a high standard in South Africa and Australia. Oli also became a patron of the Ebony Horse Club charity in Brixton, South London in 2018.



“It’s been amazing
for my confidence
to know that
I am doing
a good job.”

Alice Price
2021 David Nicholson Newcomer Award winner

2022 Finalists

David Nicholson Newcomer Award

Ella Garland Nick Gifford Racing

Ella Garland started working weekends at Nick Gifford Racing during 2020 and despite having no background in racing, she has quickly established herself as an important member of the team.

Ella's colleagues have remarked upon the impact she has had on morale and spirit at the yard, and how she has already marked herself out as a role model for colleagues and a tremendous ambassador for our sport.

She is skilled on the back of a horse, with colleagues remarking upon her calm and natural riding style that has seen her handle some of the trickier characters in the yard.

Elouise O'Hart Ed Walker Racing

The defining characteristic of Elouise O'Hart's young career to date has been perseverance. Now Assistant Head Girl to Ed Walker, things were not going so well in February 2020 as she struggled to settle at the yard.

But Elouise stuck at it and began to make rapid and remarkable progress, turning around her fortunes and thriving in a role of significant responsibility. This transformation has been described as "nothing short of astounding" and Elouise has demonstrated an exemplary attitude towards the horses in her care and her colleagues, playing a key role in the social life of the stable as well as being diligent in her duties.

Debbie Brodie Godolphin Management Co. Ltd

Debbie Brodie worked in finance and then as a trampolining coach before making the switch to her current role as a Junior Stud Hand with Godolphin.

Debbie had never considered a career in racing until her partner began to look into it. Exposure to horses through him left her determined to work with the animals and at the age of 49, she took the plunge. After completing the National Stud E2SE course Debbie joined Godolphin in January 2021 as a student working at Dalham Hall Stud.

In a short time, Debbie has made a huge impression on her colleagues.



“I’m just so proud,
I’m so proud
for the yard.”

Rebecca ‘Beck’ Edmunds
2021 Leadership Award winner

2022 Finalists

Leadership Award

Timothy Hogg Jedd O'Keeffe Racing Ltd.

Tim Hogg brought more than 30 years of experience to Jedd O'Keeffe Racing six years ago and that has been to the benefit of all who work with him.

He regularly goes above and beyond to ensure that the horses and his colleagues are happy and well cared for and took part in the Rider Coaching Programme to qualify as a Level 1 Coach.

In his own time, Tim offers free training to colleagues and has supported Owen Payton, Bailey Lewis and April Clarke in successfully passing their jockey licensing courses.

Tom Messenger Dan Skelton Racing

Team Skelton unanimously chose to nominate Tom for his work in a job he has held since his retirement from the saddle in 2016.

Tom has become a key cog in a highly successful outfit, not only as Dan Skelton's right-hand man but also as a first port of call for many of the staff should they encounter any problems, demonstrating how well thought of he is by the team.

Jack Steels Ed Walker Racing

Another nominee from Ed Walker's yard, Jack Steels and the trainer go back many years, having first met in the employ of Luca Cumani in 2007.

Walker describes his training career path as unconventional, having moved yards so often, but Jack has been a constant, providing invaluable support and security through some challenging times.



“If you’ve got the
passion, the talent
and the love for the
horse, you can
achieve anything.”

Joanna Lacisz
2021 Rider / Groom Award winner

2022 Finalists

Rider / Groom Award

Paddy Trainor

Johnston Racing Ltd.

Any regular observer of racing will recognise Paddy Trainor, who has worked for Johnston Racing for 23 years and has left an indelible mark on Britain's winningmost operation.

Paddy's larger-than-life character and outlook on life create a motivational impact not only with his work colleagues at Johnston Racing but also extend to those on the racecourse and other areas of the racing industry. He has dedicated his life to the sport and is passionate about extolling the virtues of a career in racing to those keen to learn more.

Christina Berry

Grace Harris Racing

Praise does not come much greater than that afforded to Christina Berry by her boss Grace Harris, who says that if any one person is indispensable to a racing organisation then it is Christina to Grace Harris Racing.

A regular winner of 'Best Turned Out' prizes, Christina represents the yard in the best possible light, not only demonstrating the excellent care afforded to her horses but showcasing her passion with her ebullient celebrations that have been caught on camera one or twice.

John Nicholson

Johnston Racing Ltd.

Passion for horses defines John Nicholson, who carries out the position of Night Feedman at Johnston Racing after an accident at the yard caused a shoulder injury that ended his time working as a Groom, something he had done for more than 20 years previously.

His dedication sees him work diligently, night in, night out, to ensure equipment and the yard as a whole is in the best possible condition. His colleagues recognise the level of pride he demonstrates in every job, which comes from the love he has for the horses and for racing as a whole.



“It’s a lot of hard work but I am
proud of my nomination, it’s
always nice to be recognised
by your colleagues.”

Elody Swann
2021 Stud Staff Award winner

2022 Finalists

Stud Staff Award

Charlie Sipos Hascombe and Valiant Stud

There have been plenty of stars to emerge from Hascombe & Valiant Stud down the years and for those who work closely with him, Charlie Sipos is one among that number.

Charlie has forged a reputation as a vital member of the team during his five years with the stud to date and takes tremendous pride in the stud's success, showing great patience in dealing with young stock before following their fortunes, often in person, on the racecourse.

Dulcie West North Farm Stud

We are all aware of the power thoroughbreds have to change lives and Dulcie West's story is another testament to that, given her journey to becoming Pupil Assistant to North Farm Stud's Manager has been far from straightforward.

Dulcie finally achieved the grades she needed following a difficult time at school, only to suffer a stroke at a young age that impaired the use of her left hand. Nothing was going to hold her back though and her riding continued to improve to the high standard it is assessed at today.

Few young people in the industry boast the sheer commitment and drive of this most deserving nominee.

Richard Heayns-Corrick Chapel Stud

A recent addition to the team at Chapel Stud, Richard Heayns-Corrick boasts a wealth of experience at home and abroad that has been evident to his colleagues during his first year.

Richard's people skills have stood out as he has fostered strong relationships with key stakeholders already, and his exemplary work ethic has helped to motivate the team and ensure Chapel Stud continues to run smoothly, all while making it a fun and happy place to work, bringing along cakes and running sweepstakes to keep morale up.



“It’s just amazing,
I feel so honoured.”

Joline Saunders
2021 Dedication Award winner

2022 Finalists

Dedication Award

Vova Stepanyuk Nick Gifford Racing

Nick Gifford could hardly be more effusive in his praise for Vova Stepanyuk, who has entered his 14th year at the stable after originally arriving from Ukraine in 2005 as a stable lad.

Now regarded as one of the most valued senior members of staff on the team, it is easy to see why given Vova's remarkable versatility. He can, according to his colleagues, ride anything, fix anything and undertake practically any task, all with a smile permanently affixed to his face.

Alyson West James Ferguson Racing

The fledgling training career of James Ferguson has started strongly thanks in no small part to the hard work of Alyson West, in whom Ferguson has complete faith when she travels with horses from their Savile House Stables base in Newmarket.

It is hardly a surprise given her 30 years of experience at Sir Mark Prescott's Heath House Stables, where only the best is good enough. This wealth of experience has proven invaluable for a young, up-and-coming team, with her first-class horsemanship and attention to detail setting the standard to which all must aspire.

Simon Olley Philip Kirby Racing

In 12 years at the right hand of trainer Philip Kirby, Simon Olley has seen the yard develop from having 10 horses to its current standing as the base of Graded and Listed-winning horses.

Simon is considered a horseman of remarkable talent and a leader of equal stature, his knowledge and experience of horses and the sport making him the perfect person to inspire and counsel less experienced colleagues.

Fellow members of staff and owners alike attest to the vital role Simon has played in the success of Philip Kirby's operation; whether he is harrowing the gallops, mucking out, breaking horses in or undertaking any other task, Simon performs it to the highest standards and sets the tone for those around him.



“It’s fantastic to know that what the team do, day in and day out, is recognised and appreciated by all.”

Richard Phillips
2021 Community Award Winner

Community Award

In recognition of the wonderful work Roy MacDonald achieved at The British Racing School

2022 Finalists

Andrew Braithwaite The British Racing School

Andrew Braithwaite holds the title of Finance Director at the British Racing School but this does not do justice to the breadth of his work at the BRS.

In 2020, Andrew co-founded the Newmarket Pony Academy to provide access to ponies for local children whose families would be otherwise unable to fund the opportunity. Its remarkable success has seen it become fully booked through the 2021/22 school year.

Harry Enright arrived at the BRS in 2020 and Andrew recognised his passion for riding straight away. Harry was born with one hand, and Andrew set about developing an attachment for Harry's existing prosthesis that would enable him to ride safely.

Freedom Zampaladus Urban Equestrian Academy

Freedom Zampaladus's life changed when, at 14, having moved to the Caribbean, he was introduced to racehorses, thoroughbreds through his uncle's raceyard.

Despite challenging circumstances, at age 17, he held a training license and won many races before returning to the UK aged 19. Here, he became aware of the lack of accessibility to equestrianism for people from ethnic minority backgrounds and urban areas.

This led to him setting up the Urban Equestrian Academy in Leicester in 2015, and today the academy has over 100 members weekly and a number of programmes including a bespoke programme for those with an interest in horseracing to go on to work in the racing industry.

Kevin & Pam Atkinson New Beginnings

Kevin and Pam Atkinson gave up their previous careers to create the charity New Beginnings, in order to provide a safe and supportive environment for many of the most vulnerable former racehorses to adapt and learn new skills after they have finished their first career in racing. Now, in their twelfth year, they have developed the expertise to ensure every horse that passes through their operation is afforded the time and security they need and deserve.

Engagement with the community is key for New Beginnings. They visit many Yorkshire racecourses, where they take former racehorses to meet the racing public and positively promote the life of the racehorses both during and after racing.

2021 Employee of the Year

“It was a real privilege
and to be recognised
for the hard work
that you’ve done
over the years
was really special.”

Rebecca ‘Beck’ Edmunds
2021 Employee of the Year

Employee of the Year Award



One of tonight's winners from the Leadership, Rider/Groom, Stud Staff and Dedication category will also be crowned Employee of the Year.

They will receive an additional prize of £10,000, with the same amount awarded to their yard or stud. The winner of the Employee of the Year award will join the judging panel in 2023.



**2022
Finalists**



Jack Steels



John Nicholson



Kevin & Pam Atkinson



Paddy Trainor



Richard Heayns-Corrick



Simon Olley



Timothy Hogg



Tom Messenger



Vova Stepanyuk

Careers in Racing

Managed by the British Horseracing Authority, careersinracing.com is a portal of information on careers across the whole of the racing industry. The team implements recruitment initiatives and marketing campaigns to promote racing careers and pathways to a range of audiences from school age to those looking to change careers. The popular job board on careersinracing processes over 1000 jobs a year and is free to use for all racing's employers.

careersinracing.com

www.careersinracing.com

Retraining of Racehorses

RoR is British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses who have retired from racing. The charity promotes the versatility and adaptability of racehorses for other equestrian activities following their retirement from racing. It also protects their welfare through a nationwide 'safety net' that is available to assist any former racehorse in need of charitable support. In such cases, the charity provides funding for the provision of expert care, prior to suitable rehoming.



www.ror.org.uk





Racing Together

Racing Together is an open partnership, led by the charity Racing to School, which supports and showcases all the sport's community engagement and education activity. British racing is a growing force for good in local communities, never more evident than through initiatives born during the pandemic, such as local food distribution and racecourses becoming NHS vaccination centres. Follow Racing Together on social media to find out more.



www.racingtogether.co.uk

Racing Welfare

Racing Welfare supports everyone who forms part of racing's workforce, from the beginning of their careers through into and beyond retirement. The wide range of services offered include: a 24-hour telephone and online helpline; mental health services, the Careers Advice and Training Service (CATS), provision of affordable housing; support with physical health, injuries and disabilities, and specialist counselling and support at times of personal crisis.



www.racingwelfare.co.uk



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